

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 135

The Launceston Orchestral Society

Music, Launceston
Opera, Launceston
Musicians, Launceston

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INTRODUCTION

In 1888, the Launceston City Orchestra was formed in Launceston under the direction of Mr A Wallace. The first rehearsals were held at Milton Hall on Tuesday evenings. Subscriptions to the orchestra were 5/- per quarter.

After WWI the orchestra was reformed as the Launceston Concert Orchestra, under the direction of Mr Alex Lithgow (a renowned composer). Band numbers ranged between 30-80 players with the orchestra playing four concerts per year. Practice was held weekly in a room behind the Criterion Hotel in St John Street. On Mr Lithgow's death a Mr Chester Edwards took over as director.

The Orchestra went into recess during WWII, however Dr Werther, a German Jew who had immigrated to Tasmania to escape the war, was keen to stage operas. The Launceston Operatic Society and the Orchestra members collaborated and held several operatic performances throughout the 1940s and 1950s.

In 1961, a public meeting was called to reform the Orchestra. A working party was formed and the Launceston Orchestral Society came into being. The Orchestra continued for the three decades until a lack of playing members saw it discontinue as a society and the orchestra disband in 1996.

Initially known as the Combined School's Orchestra, the Northern Tasmanian Youth Orchestra formed in 1964 (name change in 1967). It was formed by Mary Woolhouse, as part of the Launceston Orchestral Society, with the aim of providing the best musical students from surrounding high schools another avenue to play.

The Launceston Orchestral Society collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in 2013.

1. Constitution

1/1 Constitution – typed 1969

2. Member Roll

2/1 Roll of Members – lists of playing members 1963-1995

3. Annual General Meetings

3/1 Minutes Annual Meeting – minutes of inaugural meeting hand-written in tan and red account book 1961

3/2 Minutes of Annual General Meetings in blue account book 1962-1996

3/3 Minutes of Annual General Meetings (loose papers) 1963-1988

4. Minutes of Meetings

4/1 Minutes of meetings for the 'Working Committee' in tan and red account book 1961-1968

4/2 Minutes of meetings – typed & glued into red book 1968-1997

4/3 Minutes of meetings (loose papers) 1984-1992

5. Correspondence

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| 5/1 | Correspondence – inwards & outwards. Grants, conductor-in-residence program, performances, equipment, music camp | 1961-1969 |
| 5/2 | Correspondence - inwards & outwards. Grants, conductor-in-residence program, performances, equipment, music camp | 1970-1979 |
| 5/3 | Correspondence - inwards & outwards. Grants, conductor-in-residence program, performances, equipment, music camp | 1980-1989 |
| 5/4 | Correspondence - inwards & outwards. Grants, conductor-in-residence program, performances, equipment, music camp | 1990-1997 |

6. Newsletters

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| 6/1 | Various one page newsletters, some without dates | 1975, 1983 |
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7. Programmes

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| 7/1 | Programmes from LOS concerts, Light Opera Society, Launceston Players Musical Theatre shows | 1959-1996 |
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8. Ephemera

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| 8/1 | Newspaper clippings, photographs of City Park Rotunda, certificates, negatives of indoor concert, brief history of LOS | 1963-1989 |
| 8/2 | Scrapbook of invitations, flyers, programmes, newspaper clippings | 1987-1988 |

9. Northern Tasmanian Youth Orchestra

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| 9/1 | Correspondence, flyers, programmes, minutes of meetings | 1964-1988 |
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OTHER SOURCES

CHS 96 Launceston Chamber Music Society